

Remarks

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 5-9, and 11-16 are rejected. Specifically, Claims 1, 2, 5-9, 12, 14 and 16 are rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,229,720 ("Chism"). Claims 11 and 13 are rejected as being obvious over Chism in view of what is known as routine skill in the art. Claim 15 is rejected as being obvious over Chism in view of U.S. Patent 6,462,482 ("Wickramanayaka"). Claims 3, 4 and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (Claim 1). The Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

1.) Rejections of Claims 1, 2, 5-9 and 11-6 for Anticipation and Obviousness

Claims 1 and 16 are independent claims. Claims 2-15 are dependent claims that depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 1. Allowable Claim 3 has been cancelled and its limitation has been added to Claims 1 and 16. Specifically, the limitation that a pneumatic feed device/system comprises "a plurality of pneumatic feed rings located in the interior of the plasma generator" has been added to both independent claims. Additionally, dependent Claim 4 has been amended to change its dependency and antecedent basis in view of the amendments to Claims 1 and 3.

The Examiner has indicated that the prior art does not establish the plurality of pneumatic feed rings located in the interior of the plasma generator. Consequently, amended Claim 1, dependent Claims 2, 3-15 and amended Claim 16 are now allowable. Therefore, withdrawal of the present rejections for anticipation and obviousness is respectfully requested.

2.) Objection to Drawings

The draftsman has objected to Figures 1-11 for legibility of reference numerals and margins. Replacement sheets of these Figures are included.

3.) Summary

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, the rejections and objections of Claims 1, 2 and 4 – 16 have been overcome. Therefore, Applicant respectfully

requests the withdrawal of all outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims. Please apply any additional fees or credits to Deposit Account #: 50-0954, Reference #: 0R696-71036.

Respectfully Submitted,



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8/20/05
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Replacement Sheets for Drawings